

Nothing epitomizes this theme better than the work of Al-Anon, which serves the family and friends of alcoholics.

Tomorrow in the Russell Senate Caucus Room, Al-Anon will sponsor a "Families in Recovery" luncheon celebrating Recovery Month. I urge my colleagues to attend this important event.

This is also the occasion of Al-Anon's 50th Anniversary. Congress should acknowledge the many contributions of Al-Anon Family Groups to recovery in our nation.

Al-Anon Family Groups has been a source of help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics for 50 years in communities throughout the United States and worldwide.

Alateen is a part of Al-Anon for the younger family members. Both Al-Anon and Alateen freely cooperate with professional and government organizations in addressing family recovery. These are over 26,000 Al-Anon and Alateen groups around the world in 115 countries, and literature translated into 30 languages.

America owes a debt of gratitude to Al-Anon and Alateen.

Mr. Speaker, Congress should salute the Al-Anon Family Groups for its continued service to the family and friends of alcoholics in our nation. As a grateful recovering alcoholic of twenty years, I urge my colleagues to take this opportunity to affirm the remarkable efforts to the Al-Anon Family Groups.

HONORING DONAVAN CULLINGS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Donavan Cullings for his many years of honorable service to the people of Creede, Colorado. Donavan has made the decision to retire from his position as a municipal judge and will be remembered for his years of dedication and time on the bench.

Mr. Cullings grew up in Los Angeles, California until he was inducted into military service immediately following high school. During World War II, he was involved in activities in the South Pacific for three years, diligently serving his country. After returning home, Donavan married his high school sweetheart, Jan Elton, and later joined the Los Angeles Police Department. He dedicated 26 years of his life to law enforcement and then moved to Creede where he bought the Creede Drug Store.

The town of Creede eventually had a vacant Marshal position, and Donavan decided to fill that role for eight years willingly. He also served as the County Coroner for 15 years. Another calling attracted Donavan and he answered it by accepting the job of Town Magistrate for Creede, where he honorably served as a municipal judge for 15 years.

Mr. Speaker, Donavan Cullings has led a life to strengthen the fabric of the American character whether it be in troubled waters abroad or at home. His vigorous efforts deserve the praise and admiration of us all. As part of his retirement, Donavan will volunteer two days a week at Creede Museum and edu-

cate others about Creede's long-standing history. I would like to extend my warmest regards to Donavan upon his retirement and wish him and his family the best in many years to come.

HONORING THE ASPEN SKIING COMPANY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 5, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important environmental achievements of the Aspen Skiing Company.

As most people know, Aspen is one of the nation's premier ski resorts. It is nestled at the head of the Roaring Fork Valley in Colorado, and is surrounded by dramatic, rugged peaks which draw people from around the world to ski its slopes. The officials and employees of the Aspen Skiing Company know first-hand the value of the environment to their operations. If they do not preserve the beauty that surrounds this resort, then they know that they will lose skiers and ultimately profits. They know that a healthy, quality environment equals a healthy, profitable ski operation.

As a result, the company has taken a number of steps and adopted a number of practices that, in the long run, will help preserve the environmental quality of the valley. Their environmental and energy efficiency initiatives have won them many awards over the years. But as a recognition of their belief that environmental actions are not just transient and short-term policies, the company was awarded the Golden Eagle Award for Overall Ski Area Operation at the National Ski Area Association's annual convention. This award, established in 1993 by Mountain Sports Media, recognizes the positive environmental efforts of ski areas across the country. A panel of judges evaluates ski areas for their environmental efforts and grants these awards to deserving areas that employ environmental practices at their areas.

Aspen Skiing Company received this special award for its long-term environmental excellence and in setting high standards for other resorts to follow. It was also recognized for the fact that its environmental stewardship is evident in every facet of its operation—its purchasing of wind power, recycling demolished building material, water saving, energy efficient lighting, environmental scholarship program and its design of ski runs to reduce erosion and limit tree cutting. It also has established partnerships with the Environmental Protection Agency and the state of Colorado on pollution prevention practices.

All of these actions and more demonstrate that Aspen Skiing Company takes its environmental obligations seriously. Skiing is by its very nature an environmental sport. Skiers are exposed to the elements and the majesty of the mountainous environment. That experience is diminished when the resorts do not respect the landscape and take steps to preserve the very asset that draws people to the sport in the first place.

I congratulate Aspen Skiing Company for its great work and the model it is providing to re-

sorts across the country. As the following story indicates, other ski areas, such as Vail, are also incorporating environmental values and practices at their operations. Let's hope that Aspen's example can be replicated at all resorts in Colorado and throughout the nation.

[From the Vail Daily]

ECO-CHALLENGERS: RESORT COMPANIES GO GREEN

(By Maia Chavez)

Has the time come for ski resorts to flex some real muscle in the eco-arena? Resort company decision-makers are betting a portion of their revenue that it has, and while that portion may still be little more than a token, the very existence of increasing structured environmental programs within resort companies is telling.

"I've seen a few significant industry trends since I've had an environmental position at the resort," said John Gitchell, environmental manager for Vail Resorts. "One major trend that has impacted us is the investigation of impact at ski resorts. When I started my job that trend was just beginning. But the impact of ski resorts is highly visible, and sooner or later, it was going to attract attention."

Gitchell also cited increasing strictness by regulators, scrutinization of both of development and resort operations, and ecoterrorism as having given a boost to the development of environmental programs within resort companies.

Recent episodes of eco-terrorism directed at ski resorts might be a harsh—and extreme—indicator, but as a cultural barometer they have served to force the issue onto the media's consciousness. Once in the spotlight, resort companies feel the pressure to take action, and to make their presence known as activists for the cause of environmentalism.

As part of the Partnership for Environmental Education Programs speaker series, Gitchell recently shared the podium with Aspen Skiing Company director of environmental affairs Auden Schendler for a presentation on the "greening the resort culture." As spearheads for environmental programs at their respective resort companies, Gitchell and Schendler represented an interesting counterpoint as they outlined recent developments at each resort.

BIG MAC WORLD

In a humorous attempt to highlight the problem with a ski company trying to represent itself as an environmental activist, Schendler compared Aspen Skiing Company to the MacDonalds franchise.

"We're an investing company, too," he said. "We're trying to make money. The one difference from our perspective is that Aspen is privately owned. We're not beholden to shareholders. We can't actually be sued if we don't make enough money, though our owners don't like it much."

As a private company, Aspen has, in the past three years, developed one of the most extensive and award-winning environmental programs in the ski industry. According to Colorado Ski Country USA, Aspen is recognized as one of the country's most environmentally responsible ski areas, striving to "redefine corporate environmentalism."

TAKING A STAND

Aspen Skiing Company was the first in the industry to create an Environmental Affairs Department, and to make it an integral part of their senior management.

What does that mean in practical-speak?

"We have a set of guiding principles, and the main principle is that we provide the opportunity for 'the renewal of the human spirit,'" explained Schendler. "That may sound